

majority and that Seidel's vote was less by 1,053 than at the city election of 1912. What the Associated Press forgot to say was that the majority against Seidel two years ago was 12,977; that the vote of the non-partisan anti-Socialist combine has fallen off 5,476, and that the Socialist percentage of total has increased from 41½ to 43½. Yet the Associated Press claims that it was libeled when The Masses charged it with suppressing news.

s. d.



Pennsylvania's Progress.

Pennsylvania, once considered an impregnable stronghold of Privilege, may send a real democrat to the United States Senate. The Progressive party will probably nominate Gifford Pinchot, whose progressive inclinations have a practical value since he has understanding of fundamental principles and is therefore qualified to distinguish between measures which will and those which will not destroy the evils at which they are aimed. In the Democratic party there will be a contest for the nomination between Congressman Mitchell Palmer of Bethlehem and Henry Budd of Philadelphia. Congressman Palmer has done good work for the party in the State by freeing it from the domination of Boss Guffey. But in economic knowledge and consequent ability to judge correctly on many matters of public interest, he is not the equal of Henry Budd, who has moreover a long and creditable record as a vigorous opponent of the corrupt elements which have disgraced the Democratic party in Philadelphia and in Pennsylvania. If Pennsylvania voters should be given the choice of Budd or Pinchot as an alternative to Privilege's pet henchman, Boies Penrose, the change in representation, thus made possible, will be revolutionary in character. The Pennsylvania campaign is well worth watching.

s. d.



Who Was Embarrassed?

If any further evidence were needed to demonstrate the fact that the Congressional sense of humor is undeveloped, it is to be found in the attempt of Representative Albert Johnson, of Washington, to confute President Wilson by quoting an article written in 1879. "Thomas W. Wilson," said Mr. Johnson, "says that Congress is a deliberative body in which there is little deliberation, and a legislature which legislates with little real discussion. He says that committees cannot properly do the work, and that full debate at the right time is not allowed." If the President were to reissue that treatise, wherein would he have to change it?

s. c.

A Legacy of the Big Stick.

When Mr. Roosevelt, in his masterful impatience, tired of parleying with Colombia over Panama rights, he broke off negotiations and decided the whole matter himself. Instead of appealing to international opinion, where by that one act he would have got justice for his country, demonstrated the sincerity of its peace profession, and established its good faith in international arbitration, he chose rather to encourage the rebellion of Panama, and prevent Colombia from recovering her lost province. The whole proceeding from beginning to end was such as never would have been thought of had Colombia been as strong as Germany or England. And this act was committed by a nation that had fought the greatest war of modern times to prevent the secession of States.



That such an arbitrary act should have left a train of evils in its wake was inevitable. Negotiations between Colombia and the United States have been continued through three administrations, culminating in a treaty in which the United States, in its anxiety to placate a wronged neighbor, and allay the fears of Central and South American countries, has found it necessary to carry generosity to the point of prodigality. According to the advance information given out by the Secretary of State, Mr. Bryan, the new treaty that was signed at Bogota on the 8th awards Colombia \$25,000,000, and gives free passage through the Canal for her troops and ships of war.



The amount of the indemnity will look large or small according to the point of view. As a penalty for deceitful diplomacy, and underhanded methods on our part that disrupted a friendly state, and cost it one of its valuable provinces, \$25,000,000 is a very small sum. As payment for the privilege of digging the Canal, that is to say, for the permission to remove an obstruction to navigation in aid of the ships and commerce of all nations, \$25,000,000 is a monstrous sum. Neither Panama nor Colombia should be paid one cent for permission to perform this work, any more than New York City should have been paid for permitting the Federal Government to remove the rock in Hell Gate. The removal of the obstruction in East River was of great value to the City of New York, and the idea of charging the Federal Government for doing it never was mentioned. Is not the construction of the Panama Canal identical in principle? Has it not added great value to both Colombia and Panama? And is it not absurd to even think of pay-

ing them for the privilege of conferring value upon them?



Even had the Canal been constructed by a commercial company for profit, as originally conceived by the French engineers, still the states in question should have received no compensation. For just as the revenue rose above a legitimate profit, the tolls should have been reduced. In a word, the question involved in the construction of the Canal is not national, but international; and being a question in which all the nations of the world are interested it should, from the beginning, have been subject to the concert of nations. This would have avoided any trouble with Colombia, it would have saved the money paid to Panama and the amount offered Colombia, and it would have relieved us of the expense of fortifying the Canal. But all this was thrown away when an impetuous man defied international opinion, and appealed to the Big Stick. Verily, the evil that militarists do lives after them.

s. c.



A Surprising Decision.

An agreeable surprise is the action of the Colorado Supreme Court in assuming original jurisdiction in the "Mother" Jones case and in issuing a writ of habeas corpus. While the action is surprising it ought not to be. There should have been no cause to look upon it as anything else than a matter of course. But, unfortunately, the courts have made too clear that they cannot always be depended upon to uphold the constitutional rights of weak minorities.

s. d.



Woman and the Law.

Why has woman so little regard for established order? A school teacher in New York had the temerity not long ago to absent herself from her duties in defiance of the rules of the Board of Education, for the mere purpose of welcoming a new citizen by the Stork Express. Another New York woman, bidden to appear in court, flouts the judge by presenting the city with an inhabitant at the very moment she should have stood at the bar, a suppliant for mercy. But he it said to the credit of the judge—as it was of the Board of Education—that he rose to the occasion, and vindicated both the dignity of the court and the majesty of the law by clapping the woman and the contumacious baby into jail. Not only that, but he locked the door and threw away the key. For the law is so wonderfully drawn that a defaulting debtor, jailed for contempt of court, cannot be liberated without

the consent of the creditor. The creditor refuses permission till paid, the woman is unable to pay, so the judge is as helpless as the young citizen who caused the trouble. What are we coming to? Have the women no regard for the time-honored institutions of their country? We have congratulated ourselves upon escaping British militancy. But how much better is passive resistance to law? Women have forced their way into the ranks of industry, they have assailed the halls of learning, they are reaching for the ballot, and in spite of bench and bar, and in defiance of boards of education, they persist in bringing babies into the world where and when they please. Can it be possible that the law must be changed?

s. c.



Charity Organizations.

A writer in the London Nation contributes a wholesome thought regarding organized charity. After analyzing the Charity Organization Society in a way that shows its superficiality, its lack of understanding of the charity problem, and its general meddlesomeness in the lives of the poor, the writer sums it up with a statement that the human relationship of the rich catechising the poor in their hovels is about as genuine as would be the fellowship between a slum-dweller who might interview a plutocrat on the boulevard as to the price and quantity of champagne consumed. And to the question, "Do you think that public officials are so tactful and gentle in handling the poor that it would not still be necessary, however full and generous your equipment of public administration, to have a body of workers outside such organization, giving help and advice, and tempering the asperities of bureaucracy?" the writer makes this significant answer: "We think some such organization is needed, but it must be an organization as much unlike the Charity Organization Society as possible. What is needed is an organization of poor people who know their own world, and not of rich people who condescend to drill it."

s. c.



Houston's Efficient Officials.

The Houston plan of assessing land values high and improvement values low meets with the approval of all but a few of the city's tax payers. Over 9,000 property owners have signified their approval by signing the assessment roll. Less than one hundred have formed an organization to demand a return to the old system. Lacking the courage to insist on strict enforcement of the law they ask that it be violated in a way to benefit them by assessment of all property at fifty